



**IV. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

The rejection of claims 1-3, and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jaworski, is traversed.

In the invention here disclosed, a bearing seat of a ball joint located in a socket with an opening has a spherical sliding surface that rotatably holds a substantially globular ball portion of a ball stud arranged in the socket and has a latitudinal direction and a longitudinal direction, and an opening which communicates with the opening. The bearing seat of the ball joint houses concave portions which form lines along the latitude direction and respective opening areas of the mutually adjacent lines are different from each other. (See paragraph [0011], underscoring added for emphasis.)

Referring to Fig. 2 and Col, 4, lines 53-61 of Jaworski:

“... the bearing socket 18 has a generally spherical inner contour 52 having lubricant reservoirs that are exemplary shown as dimples at 54 formed thereon. The dimples or other cavity configurations - such as a waffle pattern or annular grooves - provide a plurality of lubricant reservoirs to facilitate continuous supply of lubricant onto the sliding surfaces between the ball stud journal 24 and the bearing socket 18 facilitating prolonged product performance.”

Clearly, Jaworski neither discloses nor suggests the structure of concave portions having open areas which are different, as is disclosed in the application. (underscoring added for emphasis)

Amended claim 1 avoids Jaworski by reciting the structure of:

“A bearing seat for a ball joint...having a plurality of housing concave portions that are respectively opened along first and second adjacent latitudinal direction positions on the sliding surface in a manner opposed to an outer circumferential surface of the ball portion for housing a lubricant” ... in combination with... “concave portions of the first and second adjacent latitudinal direction positions have opened areas which are different from each other”. (underscoring added for emphasis)

Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, for the reasons noted above, also avoid Jaworski.

Claim 5 avoids Jaworski by reciting the structure of concave portions having opened areas of different sizes. Specifically, claim 5 recites the structure of:

“...concave portions ... respectively provided ... to form first and second lines along the longitudinal direction at one side of an equator and form tiers along the latitudinal direction wherein the first line is closer to the equator and

the opened areas in the second line are equal to each other  
and less than the opened areas of the first line, and the  
opened areas are adapted to house a lubricant”  
(underscoring added for emphasis)

Claim 8 depends from claim 5 and, therefore, for the reason noted above, also avoids Jaworski. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

**V. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

The rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaworski et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,795,092, in view of Ahn, KR-2001107452 is traversed.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 which, as noted above, avoids Jaworski and, therefore, claim 4 also avoids Jaworski. Further, Ahn does not cure the deficiencies of Jaworski, and thus neither Jaworski, Ahn, nor the combination of the two renders the claim obvious. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

